

**In the Specification:**

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the specification, page 4, please delete paragraph [0018] and insert the following:

[0018] Fig. 2 shows the course of pressure and transport amount in dense-flow transport over time for the carbon black pellets 2 prepared in accordance with the present invention with an air velocity of 5.6 m/sec, a solids- transport air ratio of 20 kg/kg and a transport capacity of 4.6 t/h,

Fig. 3 shows the course of pressure and transport amount in dense-flow transport over time for the comparison carbon black pellets 1 with an air velocity of 6.6 m/sec, a solids-transport air ratio of 14 kg/kg and a transport capacity of 3.8 t/h;

Fig. 4 shows the course of pressure and transport amount in dense-flow transport over time for the carbon black pellets 2 in accordance with the invention with an air velocity of 4.8 m/sec, a solids-transport air ratio of 20 kg/kg and a transport capacity of 4.0 t/h,

Fig. 5 shows the course of pressure and transport amount in dense-flow transport over time for the comparison carbon black pellets 1 with an air velocity of 5.5 m/sec, a solids-transport air ratio of 18 kg/kg and a transport capacity of 4.0 t/h,

Fig. 6 shows the course of pressure and transport amount in thin-stream transport over time for the carbon black pellets 2 in accordance with the invention with an air velocity of 15.7 m/sec, a solids-transport air ratio of 7 kg/kg and a transport capacity of 4.4 t/h,

Fig. 7 shows the course of pressure and transport in thin-stream transport over time for the comparison carbon black pellets 1 with an air velocity of 16.0 m/sec, a solids-transport air ratio of 6 kg/kg, and a transport capacity of 3.8 t/h,

Fig. 8 shows the course of pressure and transport amount in thin-stream transport over time for the carbon black pellets 3 in accordance with the invention with an air velocity of 15.8 m/sec, a solids-transport air ratio of 7 kg/kg and a transport capacity of 4.2 t/h,

Fig. 9 shows the course of pressure and transport amount in thin-stream transport over time for the comparison carbon black pellets 5 with the invention with an air velocity of 7.0 m/sec, a solids-transport air ratio of 11 kg/kg and a transport capacity of 3.1 t/h, and

Fig. 10 shows the course of pressure and transport amount in thin-stream transport over time for the carbon black pellets 4 in accordance with the invention with an air velocity of 5.8 m/sec, a solids-transport air ratio of 14 kg/kg and a transport capacity of 3.2 t/h.